

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Obtain additional water rights for current operations at Boundary Hydroelectric Project.

2. Name of applicant:

Seattle City Light (SCL).

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Seattle City Light
c/o Kimberly Pate
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3200
P.O. Box 34023
Seattle, WA 98124-4023
206.684.3705

4. Date checklist prepared:

May, 2009.

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Ecology.

S3-30594

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

The Boundary Hydroelectric Project is already constructed and operational under license No. 2144 from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Additional water rights are needed to (1) operate the existing Project at its full capacity; and (2) minimize the need to spill water over the dam during high flow events. The proposal to obtain additional water rights does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility. Accordingly, use of water under the proposed additional water rights will begin as soon as Ecology issues a water rights permit.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

This proposal to Ecology for additional water rights is for current operations. Although the Boundary Project's FERC license expires in 2011, because the proposal is for current operations it is unrelated to FERC relicensing.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Information regarding current environmental conditions in the vicinity of the Boundary Hydroelectric Project and regarding the Project's current potential impacts has been collected in the Pre-Application Document as part of the FERC relicensing.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

The property will be subject to an application for a new FERC license, which application will be filed in September 2009, with issuance of the new license anticipated by September 2011.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

No additional approvals are needed to utilize the additional water rights being requested under the proposal.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

SCL's Boundary Hydroelectric Project was constructed in 1967. It is currently operated under two diversionary water rights (Qi only) and one reservoir right (Qa only).

The proposal is for SCL to obtain from Ecology a new diversionary water right (Qi only) for the Boundary Project in order to (1) operate the existing Project at its full capacity; and (2) minimize the need to spill water over the dam during high flow events. Spilling water can be associated with elevated levels of TDG. The new water right would be additive to the Project's existing diversionary water rights (S3-13196C and S3-27415C), which were issued based on the initial anticipated (rated) capacity of the Project, rather than its actual installed capacity.

The Boundary Project consists of an existing hydroelectric power plant with four 208,000-hp and two 268,000-hp Francis turbines. Water is diverted upstream of the dam. It is diverted into the forebay through a trash-rack, passes through the turbines, and is released into the tailrace immediately downstream of the dam.

The proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility. It is merely to reconcile the water rights for the Project with its current capacity and configuration.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The Boundary Hydroelectric Project is located on the Pend Oreille River in northern Pend Oreille County. The Project's point of diversion is located in Section 10, Township 40N, Range 43 EWM. Its specific location is shown in the attached figure.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,
other

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The site (trash-rack and forebay area west of the trash-rack) is in the River. The land around the site is generally flat above the river bank, with approximate slopes of <5%.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Soft and weak native rock.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Yes. Raveling periodically occurs on the forebay walls.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any filling, grading or other construction.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

No. Proposal does not involve any clearing, construction or change to the existing facility.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

None. See above.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

None. See above.

3. Water**a. Surface:**

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Yes. Boundary Project is located on the mainstem Pend Oreille River, as is the site (trash-rack and forebay area west of the trash-rack), where water is currently diverted and will continue to be diverted under the proposal.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

No.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any construction, fill or dredging.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Yes. The proposal is to obtain a new water right to divert up to 4,400 cfs (measured on an hourly average basis) for non-consumptive hydropower generation.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

The 100-year floodplain has not been mapped in this area. However, the trash-rack and forebay area west of the trash-rack, where water is diverted, is located in the Pend Oreille River.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility, and will not create any runoff or involve any collection or disposal of stormwater.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply. Proposal will not alter the current potential for waste materials to enter ground or surface water.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

The Boundary Project maintains a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCC).

4. Plants

- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

_____ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
_____ shrubs
_____ grass
_____ pasture
_____ crop or grain
_____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
_____ other types of vegetation

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

None.

- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

No.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

None. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Bald eagle may forage over or near the site. Bull Trout might be present infrequently.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Not for birds or mammals.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

None. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Electricity.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?

If so, generally describe.

No.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?

List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

No. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

None. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None. See above.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Current use of the site and adjacent properties is for the existing Boundary Project. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Existing Boundary Project has occupied the site since mid 1960s.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

Existing Boundary Project trash-rack and forebay are located at the site.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Upland areas around the site are zoned "Public Lands"

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Upland areas around the site are designated "Public Lands"

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Upland areas around the site are designated "Conservancy Environment"

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Of the areas defined by the County as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (wetlands, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, critical fish and wildlife habitat and critical aquifer recharge areas), only frequently flooded areas and critical fish and wildlife habitat are potentially applicable to the site. As noted above, the trash-rack and forebay area west of the trash-rack, where water is diverted, is located in the Pend Oreille River. Upland areas around the site within the 100-year floodplain would be classified as a frequently flooded area. Further, the upland area around the site is a riparian area and so may be classified as critical fish and wildlife habitat.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None. See above.

1. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

None. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

None. See above.

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

None. See above.

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None. See above.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

SCL's Forebay Recreation Area is in the vicinity of the trash-rack and forebay, where water will be diverted under the proposal. The recreation area provides day use (boat launch and picnic areas) and camping opportunities.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

None. See above.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

None. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Existing Boundary Project is accessible from State Highway 31. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility or its access.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No. There is no public transit in this portion of Pend Oreille County.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None. See above.

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None. See above.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Does not apply. Proposal does not involve any construction or change to the existing facility.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:

Date Submitted:

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

T40N,R43E

Section
3

Section
2

Boundary
Dam

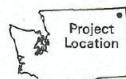
Trash-Rack
Forebay

Section
10

Section
11

SEATTLE CITY LIGHT
BOUNDARY PROJECT, FERC NO. 2144

Site Plan
Point of Diversion / Place of Use



Washington



Map Version 05/01/09



S3-30594